

RESOLUTION NO. 04-16

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDISTRICTING REFORM
(LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS)**

WHEREAS the boundaries of state political districts are currently drawn by legislative incumbents, often creating conflicts of interest; and,

WHEREAS the redistricting process should be conducted in an open manner with real opportunities for public dialogue and feedback; and,

WHEREAS public input and involvement in the redistricting process will empower our communities by allowing them to elect representatives who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives; and,

WHEREAS important principles such as respect for boundaries of neighborhoods and cities should be clearly listed as a criterion for redistricting; and,

WHEREAS voters are more likely to participate when they feel that their votes will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and,

WHEREAS elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidates, thus increasing accountability and serving the best interests of the voters of Indiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of West Lafayette does resolve that:

The Special Interim Committee on Redistricting should produce a final report that supports comprehensive redistricting reform which incorporates the following:

1. The State of Indiana should establish a citizens-led commission composed of Indiana voters who represent the state's diversity, partisan balance, and geography, for all future redistricting. This Commission will oversee the process to draw the lines of the State Senate, State House of Representative and Congressional districts.

2. District boundaries should be drawn according to clearly described criteria, including respect for:
 - a. The principle of one person, one vote in the U.S. Constitution
 - b. The U. S. Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - c. Contiguity requirements of the Indiana Constitution to draw districts as one connected area
 - d. Communities of interest, city and county boundaries
 - e. Compactness
3. The residence of any individual, including an incumbent office holder or candidate, shall not be considered when any district is drawn.
4. The Commission should conduct a transparent redistricting process with full opportunities for public participation. All redistricting plan information should be available in a timely fashion, free of charge, through a public website and other means.
5. The public should be given ample notice to participate in all Commission meetings, and these public meetings should be held at times and places convenient to the public in at least three different geographic regions of the state.
6. The Commission and its members should abide by Indiana's Open Meetings and Public Records laws.
7. The boundaries of all state and local districts should be reviewed once every ten years following the decennial U.S. Census and Congressional reapportionment.